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 RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 6924
 RUQMPL/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3478
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: IMF, TU, CY, GR
 SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR
 CONCERNING TURKISH ROLE IN CYPRUS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WILLIAM B. INGLEE, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN COLEMAN, IN ANKARA WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION PROGRAMMED BY NATIS, HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE TEXT OF A "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER SIGNED BY CONGRESSMAN JAMES J. FLORIO OF NEW JERSEY, SENT TO VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN, URGING THEIR SIGNATURE TO A LETTER TO MANAGING DIRECTOR J. DE LAROSIERE, OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND. THE "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FLORIO REFERS TO THE PRESENCE OF TURKISH TROOPS IN CYPRUS, CONTENDING THAT THE COST OF THIS OPERATION IS A MISPLACEMENT OF TURKISH ECONOMIC RESOURCES, AND URGES THE RECIPIENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SIGN THE LETTER TO MR. DE LAROSIERE, "...ASKING THAT HE TAKE THE CYPRUS SITUATION INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN RE-EVALUATING TURKEY'S LOAN."

3. THE LETTER TO DE LAROSIERE EXPRESSES "DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND'S LOANS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.", AND URGES THAT THE IMF MAKE "TURKISH LOANS CONDITIONAL ON THE REMOVAL OF TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS WHEN THE STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT FOR TURKEY IS NEXT EVALUATED."

4. INGLEE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS LETTER HAD IN FACT BEEN DISPATCHED TO DE LAROSIERE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY SIGNATURES THE LETTER BORE.

5. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE WE KNOW OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE IMF VIS-A-VIS TURKEY. FLORIO'S LETTER IS DATED MARCH 22, AND WE ASSUME THIS MUST HAVE BEEN TIMED WITH A VIEW TO THE IMF BOARD MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY APRIL, TO DECIDE ON ANOTHER STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT FOR TURKEY. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING ALSO THAT THE IMF APPROVED THE STAND-BY. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE A

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84 3948074 SCP

PAGE 002
TOR: 191403Z APR 84

NC 3948074

READOUT FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON HOW MANY MEMBERS OF
THE CONGRESS SIGNED THE LETTER TO THE IMF, IF IN FACT
IT WAS SENT.

WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THESE LETTERS TO EUR/SE.
PEREZ
END OF MESSAGE

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